

Debt Sustainability of Post-HIPC Countries in Africa



Project Title	Debt Sustainability of Post-HIPC Countries in Africa
Project Summary	This project is an opportunity for an aspiring economist to do an in-depth analysis on the fiscal positions and debt sustainability of African countries that benefited from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.
Country	United States
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	EB/IFD/OMA
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	1

Project Description

This project is an opportunity for an aspiring economist to do an in-depth analysis on the fiscal positions and debt sustainability of African countries that benefited from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Thirty-six countries received debt relief under the HIPC Initiative over the span of 2001-2014, the majority of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. Although the fiscal space that debt relief created empowered many African countries to reduce poverty and expand basic social safety nets, other countries have accumulated new debts that have reached or even exceeded the levels that were forgiven under the HIPC Initiative. The objective of this project is to produce a comprehensive research document on the status of post-HIPC African countries, including rigorous data analysis, country case studies and cross-country comparisons, and other related research. The final written product should be comparable to an undergraduate or graduate level thesis (and may be used for such academic purposes with permission of the VSFS intern's academic institution); however it should also include concrete policy recommendations appropriate for application in a foreign policy context. The selected intern will have the opportunity to present her/his findings in person or via video conference to a State Department audience at the end of the project.

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Prior coursework in macroeconomics, international finance, and statistics and/or econometrics
- Prior training in statistical software (e.g., Excel, Stata, EViews, R, etc.)
- Familiarity with or interest in the sub-Saharan Africa region, through coursework and/or study abroad

Language Requirements

None